

HEALTH
1-9SEP 49
C.R. 17

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THE MELFORD RURAL DISTRICT

IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for 1948

SECTION A

1.—General Statistics

Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	12,660	Area	47,270
Number of Inhabited Houses	3,591	Rateable Value	£43,691
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£186 18s. 0d.		

2.—Extracts of Vital Statistics for the Year

LIVE BIRTHS	TOTAL	M	F		
Legitimate	187	94	93	Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated Population	15.6
Illegitimate	11	8	3	England and Wales	17.9
TOTAL ..	198	102	96		
STILL BIRTHS					
Legitimate	7	2	5	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population	0.55
Illegitimate	0	0	0	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population, England	
TOTAL	7	2	5	Wales	0.42
DEATHS registered in 1948				Death Rate (crude)	13.7
TOTAL	173	Male 98	Female 75	Death Rate of England and Wales	10.8
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of child-birth					
(a) from sepsis					0
(b) other causes					0
Death of infants under one year Legitimate					5
Illegitimate					1
Cause of death of Infants under one year					
(a) Congenital Abnormalities					0
(b) Prematurity					3
(c) Inanition from birth					1
(d) Tuberculous Meningitis					1
(e) Intracranial Haemorrhage-Prematurity					1
Death Rate of Infants under one year					
All infants per 1,000 live births					30.3
England and Wales per 1,000 live births					34
Deaths from Measles (all ages)					0
Deaths from Whooping Cough					0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)					0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) M 12 F 12 Total 24.					

SECTION B

- 1. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.
Medical Officer of Health (part time)
Senior Sanitary Inspector—whole time—J. A. E. Burrows, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
Additional Sanitary Inspector—whole time—P. H. White, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
- 2. AMBULANCE FACILITIES
On July 5th the West Suffolk County Council assumed responsibility for the ambulance service which is carried on through the agency of the West Suffolk Branch of the British Red Cross Society.

3. NURSING IN THE HOME

The West Suffolk County Council's Home nursing and midwifery service supply 6 District Nurses.

4. The West Suffolk County Council provide 3 Infant Welfare Centres in the District at Long Melford, Glemsford and Bures.

5. LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory Service, directed by the Medical Research Council at Ipswich has given the district very generous service.

The Public Analyst for the County has given reports on the analysis of the water in the area.

SECTION C

The following Report is submitted by Mr. H. J. Harrington, the Council's Water Engineer:—

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

During the year ended 31st December, 1948, the Mains Water Supplies in the Council's Area of Supply has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality, and no shortage has been experienced. At the end of the year there were 2,081 houses taking the mains supply, 1,028 properties having a Laid-on supply, and 1,053 being served by Standpipes either in gardens, or by Public Standpipe.

Below is set out detailed information relating to each Parish:—

PARISH		LAID ON SUPPLY	STANDPIPE SUPPLY	TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES CONNECTED
Great Cornard	..	301	84	385
Long Melford	..	279	322	601
Acton		36	55	91
Gt. Waldingfield	..	29	60	89
Newton		32	15	47
Assington		15	16	31
Chilton		15	22	37
Stoke-by-Nayland	..	60	86	146
Nayland		77	22	99
Bures St. Mary	..	86	55	141
Glemsford		98	316	414
TOTALS	..	1028	1053	2081

The consumption per head per day of the population served on the various Schemes, is as follows:—

Central Area Scheme—

Source of Supply—Great Cornard. Serving the Parishes of Great Cornard, Long Melford, Acton, Great Waldingfield, Newton and Assington—17·60 gallons per head per day.

Stoke-By-Nayland Scheme—

Serving the Parishes of Stoke-By-Nayland and Nayland. 12·74 gallons per head per day.

Glemsford Water Scheme—

Serving the Parish of Glemsford only. 11·77 gallons per head per day.

Bures St. Mary Water Scheme—

The supply for the above-mentioned Parish is purchased in bulk from the Lexden and Winstree Rural District Council. 20·12 gallons per head per day.

EXAMINATION OF SUPPLIES

Two Samples were analysed during the year by Mr. W. Lincolne Sutton, F.I.C., Norwich, and the Bacteriological results show that the Waters are quite fit for Drinking purposes.

The total amount of Water Pumped by the Department for domestic and non-domestic purposes was 49,761,500 gallons.

WATER CARTING—PARISHES OF SHIMPLING, LAWSHALL AND ALPHETON

During the year 484,000 gallons of water was conveyed to the above-mentioned Parishes by the Council's lorry. The water is taken from the public mains at Long Melford.

SECTION D

Report of Senior Sanitary Inspector for 1948

WATER SUPPLIES—PRIVATE

Thirty water samples from twenty sources were taken during the year. All were submitted to bacteriological examination. Fifteen supplies were found to be bacteriologically unsatisfactory or suspicious. This points to the conclusion that a very high proportion of the older dug wells in the District would prove to be bacteriologically unsatisfactory if sampled. Evidence to this effect was submitted at the Public Enquiry into the need for a piped water supply to the Northern half of the District. The Council's proposals were later approved by the Ministry of Health.

No outbreaks of disease were traced to polluted water supplies.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The need for Sewerage Schemes in the "River Parishes" of Glemsford, Long Melford, Great Cornard, Bures St. Mary, Nayland and Stoke-By-Nayland remains acute. The proposed schemes for these parishes had been submitted to the Ministry of Health by the end of the year.

RIVER POLLUTION

In the autumn dead fish were reported in the upper reaches of the River Stour. Samples of river water were submitted to analysis and enquiries made, but no abnormal pollution could be discovered to account for the trouble.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Throughout the year the District, with the exception of Long Melford, has had a fortnightly collection of house refuse. Long Melford, because of its congested character and size, has a weekly collection. Approximately 2,800 cubic yards of refuse were collected, being a slight increase on the previous year. Disposal remains as reported for 1947.

CESSPOOL CLEANSING SERVICE

378 private cesspools were emptied during the year, distributed geographically as follows :—

Acton	9
Alpheton	8
Assington	5
Bures St. Mary	24
Boxted	1
Chilton	13
Glemsford	8
Great Cornard	146
Great Waldingfield	9
Hartest	2
Lawshall	6
Little Cornard	7
Little Waldingfield	3
Long Melford	41
Nayland	19
Newton	7
Shimpling	3
Somerton	3
Stanstead	1
Stoke-By-Nayland	34
Outside Area	29

New Council Estates, served by cesspools, necessitated work equivalent to the emptying of a further 381 large capacity cesspools, distributed as follows :—

Glemsford	Angel Lane Site ..	62
	Lion Road Site ..	191
Long Melford	Cordell Place ..	100
Acton	Barrow Hill ..	1
Newton	Airey Houses ..	2
Great Waldingfield	Hospital Site Hutments	22
Stoke-By-Nayland	Blundens Cottages ..	3

In addition 64 privies were emptied.

The pressure of work on one vehicle was so great that by the end of the year the Council had to consider the future of this service. It was decided that it must continue and that a new machine should be obtained. Pending delivery of this a private contractor is to be employed as necessary. It was regretfully decided that no further work could be done outside the boundaries of the District.

NIGHT SOIL COLLECTION

At the beginning of the year the Council carried out a weekly collection in Long Melford, by direct labour, using a horse-drawn vehicle. On the 19th April a new staff, using the Council's Cleansing Unit, commenced operation in the three parishes of Long Melford, Glemsford and Great Cornard. Disposal is by draining and drying the sludge on specially constructed beds.

The collection of night-soil in the parish of Bures St. Mary continues to be carried out by a private Contractor.

NUISANCES

73 visits were made to investigate complaints of various nuisances. No statutory action was required.

HOUSING

Visits were made when complaints were received and Owners approached to do the necessary repairs. No statutory action was required.

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY

The Parishes of Alpheton, Shimpling, Stanstead, Acton and Little Cornard have been completely surveyed, each house being placed in one of the following categories :—

- Category 1. Houses reasonably fit in all respects.
- „ 2. Houses needing minor repairs.
- „ 3. Houses needing major repairs.
- „ 4. Probably worthy of reconditioning.
- „ 5. Impossible to repair at reasonable cost.

The following table gives the results for each of the above Parishes :—

PARISH	CATEGORIES					TOTALS
	1	2	3	4	5	
Alpheton	6	29	16	7	9	67
Shimpling	13	56	24	9	—	102
Stanstead	14	42	26	6	4	92
Acton	25	31	69	6	25	156
Little Cornard ..	7	24	50	—	5	86

The total number of houses surveyed to the end of 1948 is 3,584. The structural condition of these houses may be summarised as follows :—

Category 1.	..	..	..	..	..	..	601
„ 2.	..	..	..	..	..	..	1416
„ 3.	..	..	..	..	..	..	1165
„ 4.	..	..	..	..	..	..	149
„ 5.	..	..	..	..	..	..	253

The following tables of comparative figures have been compiled on similar lines to those in The Annual Reports for 1946 and 1947. Figures given are percentages of houses within each Parish.

Construction

PARISH	ROOF			WALLS	
	THATCH	TILES	SLATE	BRICK	STUD & PLASTER
Alpheton	27	49	21	39	51
Shimpling	11	39	44	51	36
Stanstead	21	45	34	62	34
Acton	12	52	24	57	33
Little Cornard ..	4	66	25	60	21

Accommodation provided

PARISH	NO. OF LIVING-ROOMS*		NO. OF BEDROOMS			
	1	2	1	2	3	4
Alpheton	83	13	16	28	41	12
Shimpling	62	20	4	28	42	12
Stanstead	72	20	3	43	37	8
Acton	44	46	4	36	43	8
Little Cornard ..	59	35	2	39	39	11

*Note : The term “ living-room ” does not include what is used as a kitchen or scullery.

Sanitation and Water Supply

PARISH	WATER SUPPLY			SANITATION					
	MAINS	DUG WELL	BORE WELL	WATER CLOSET	PAIL CLOSET	PRIVY	CESS-POOL	SINKS	BATHS
Alpheton	—	89	1	6	85	9	25	56	13
Shimpling	—*	23	17	16	75	9	16	75	15
Stanstead	—	87	9	6	80	14	15	53	12
Acton	65	27	0·6	21	77	2	47	62	15
Little Cornard ..	7	3	3	18	77	5	30	51	24

* 50% rely upon tanks filled by the Council.

Methods of Lighting and Cooking

PARISH	LIGHTING			COOKING		
	ELECTRICITY	GAS	OIL	ELECTRICITY	GAS	OIL
Alpheton	5	4*	91	—	4*	9
Shimpling	6	6*	88	0·9	—	17
Stanstead	12	—	87	4	—	17
Acton	46	4*	80	6	0·6*	5
Little Cornard ..	16	—	81	1	1*	3

* Private Installations

SECTION E

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Regular inspections of carcasses were made at the Ministry of Foods Slaughterhouse at Bures St. Mary. The total number of animals killed was as follows :—

Cattle	2157
Sheep	2670
Pigs	249
Calves	890

22,073 lbs. of carcase meat and 29,260 lbs. of offals were condemned as unfit for human consumption. Of these quantities 26,721 lbs. were affected with tuberculosis, including the entire carcasses with all offals of 18 cows, 5 heifers and 2 steers.

At the Bures Meat Distribution Depot 405 lbs. of canned corned beef were condemned. The following foodstuffs were condemned at wholesale and retail premises :—

Meat Preparations	16 tins
Fish Preparations	10 tins
Vegetable Preparations	3 tins
Milk (Evaporated or Condensed)	1 tin
Fruit	2 tins
Soups	3 tins
Preserves	6 tins
Bloaters	2 stones
Ox Liver	6½ lbs.

MILK PRODUCTION

Thirty visits were made to cowsheds and dairies.

SECTION F

RODENT CONTROL

The Council continues to exercise delegated powers under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919. One full time Operator is normally employed, but because of change of staff no work was done during the months June to September inclusive. The following results are calculated in accordance with the Ministry of Food's formula.

- 437 visits for survey and enquiry.
- 250 visits for baiting and poisoning.
- 4,393 rats estimated to have been killed.

The above figures include work carried out on the Council's various refuse and night-soil tips.

VERMIN DISINFESTATION

Five premises were treated for mild infestation of fleas or bugs. No Council Houses were involved.

SECTION G

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases

CASES NOTIFIED

CIVILIAN					1948
DISEASE					
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	10
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	31
Measles	..	..	..	..	20
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	4
Acute Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	15
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	4
Ophthalmia	..	..	..	..	0
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	0
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	1

AGE INCIDENCE

AGE	SCARLET FEVER		WHOOPING COUGH		MEASLES		DIPH-THERIA		PNEU-MONIA		DYSENTRY		ERY-SIPELAS	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1 Year								1						
1—3 "			6	4	4	2			1	1				
3—5 "	1			4	3				3	2				
5—10 "	2	5	6	10	4	3			4	1				
10—15 "		1			1	2				1				
15—25 "		1			1		2	1		2		1		
25—45 "			1											
45—65 "														3
65 & Over													1	
TOTAL	3	7	13	18	13	7	2	2	8	7		1	1	3

TUBERCULOSIS

New Notifications 17 ; Pulmonary 16 ; Non-Pulmonary 1.

AGE INCIDENCE

NEW CASES

AGE					1948			
					PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY	
					MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1—5 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5—10 "	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..
10—15 "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15—20 "	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
20—25 "	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1
25—35 "	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	..
35—55 "	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..
55—65 "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
65 & Over	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Total	..	..	..	..	9	7	0	1

Deaths : Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. M 5, F 2, Total 7 }
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis M 0, F 1, Total 1 } 8

J. B. M. MAYES,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.